

How a Subject taught me more than its Marks ever could

Through Pre-Primary to 12th Grade, there have been Many lessons, subjects and topics throughout these years. But only a few hit as close to home as English Literature Stories do.

I still vaguely remember a day english lesson in 9th Grade. I was standing in the back of the class because my work was not complete (As always :/).

And Varsha Ma'am was teaching 'A House is not a Home'.

I still remember the suspense i felt while listening to that story, Hope that the narrator's mother is safe, That his classmates will treat him well after the tragedy that happend with him and what not, I was so ingrained into the story that i forgot that i was even in punishment!

This is an unpopular opinion but i believe that all the English stories that we got to study throught the years in our school meant a whole lot more than just some marks in an examination.

These stories were handpicked and curated by some of the most wise people sitting at the NCERT HQ.

Their goal?

To teach children about the experiences and learnings of a human life through a fun medium;

To show us what to expect growing up, The fears, The Ambitions, The Desires, The Memories, The Love, The once-in-a-lifetime Moments^TM and so so much more.....

I have a collection of the chapters that i found the most profound and “life-changing” from 9th - 12th Grade. Here are a few of the chapters from that Collection and why they are so special to me:

- **The Last Lesson:** 12th Grade - Appeared at the exact time it was needed at the ending of one’s school life.
- **Bholi:** 10th Grade - Great Story about Empowerment and standing up for yourself and how a small act of kindness by someone can change someone's entire life by so much
- **The Road not Taken:** 10th Grade - Another great poem about finding out your own path through life, No matter if it leads to a happier/sadder experience then the rest, You still forged your own path
- **From the Diary of Anne Frank:** 10th Grade - A short glimpse into the Horror faced by Jews in WW2 and how a young aspirational girl who wanted to be a Journalist was able to fulfill her dreams indirectly by reaching the hearts of millions even after her death
- **Madam Rides the Bus:** 10th Grade - This made me think about both the beauty and terror of curiosity, It can lead you to fantastical places you couldn't even imagine in your wildest dreams while also sometimes leading you to places no human would ever want to go to.
- **The Address:** 11th Grade - A Story about a War Torn country and how a girl visits her old house to hopefully recover something back from her past but soon realises that the past is past for a reason.
- **My Mother at Sixty-Six:** 12th Grade - A short poem that teaches you that the most painful part of growing up is seeing your parents grow old as well as you begin to carve out a piece of the world for yourself.

And so many more.....

There has been Nights were the thought of Growing up hit me so hard that i began to cry. In some of those times, The crux of the pain were the the Experiences i got to share with my Teachers and Classmates now seeming to fade away into the void. But here again, Stories like 'The Address' reminded me that the fact that you cherish the memories so much is a gift itself. To stop grieving the past and to look up and see the bright future waiting up ahead.

But unfortunately, The Old Student habit of rushing past supposed "useless" things caught up with this too.

Most People began to rote memorise these chapters, Learn the questions and their answers, Fly though the concepts presented in the stories without even batting them an eye or sparing them a moment of thinking.

I hate that Most of every subject i love ends up falling into such traps of the "student hustle culture". Reduced to mere shells of their actual glory, Doomed to be the side thoughts of a student who just wants to earn marks because apparently that's all that matters.

But, Again we can only control ourselves and not other's thoughts or actions directly.

I have myself pledged to never rush past any topics of any subject that i like studying because English has taught me that there is a lot to know if you look just a bit deep enough. It has taught me to Reflect and Ponder deeply on each and everything I

come across because this fragile ticket to existence you won in a lottery is not meant to be rushed past in the grind of daily life.

Oh and i am not letting this chapter close without getting a final word.

After the boards i plan to send a Physical Mail Letter to the NCERT HQ, Thanking them for all these years of carefully curated stories that helped us grow a bit more and learn more about this beautiful journey we named as life.

I know that, The letter would most probably be just ignored, but even the slightest chance of it making it to someone and making their day, Letting them know that there is a boy out there who was inspired by the stories you chose for him. The chances of that small smile appearing on their face. That is all the reason i need to send this letter.

Well, That's about it for me for now, I hope you like dthis short rant of mine and i hope that i was able to convince you of diving deep into your own subjects too a bit.

Truly these stories entail stuff that we never could've imagined otherwise.

And with that, This is Taha Signing Off :3

Have a nice day ahead!

Goodluck and Godspeed! :D